

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment adds no new matter. The specification has been amended to recite a claim of priority to a prior filed Italian patent application.

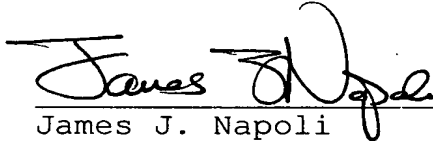
It is submitted that the claims are in proper form and scope for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Napoli", is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Napoli
(Registration No. 32,361)
Attorneys for Applicants
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois
April 19, 2004